THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The other recommendations, *inter-alia,* include expeditious introduction of State VAT in the remaining States; introduction of uniformity in taxes on commodities; withdrawal of octroi and other local taxes; replacement of annual payment of road tax and renewal of fitness certificate by a life-time (at least 10 years) payment system and introduction of a National Permit for plying commercial vehicles anywhere in the country.

The inter-departmental consultations have been initiated on the recommendations made in the report for appropriate action.

Production rate of foodgrains, fruits, etc.

†1939. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production rate of fruits, vegetables, rice, pulses, wheat etc. in the country is not only lower than the average production rate of these items in the world, but the same is even lower than that in China, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Brazil, etc.;

(b) if not, the details in this regard alongwith the production rate of above items in each of the countries mentioned above as well as the average production rate in the world;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in addition to lower average production rate of the above items, their production cost is also higher; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The following table shows the production rates of fruits, vegetables, rice pulses and wheat for world, India and other countries as per the information furnished by National Horticulture Board and available in FAO Production Year Book:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Country	Production Rate (Tonnes/Hectare)				
	Fruits	Vegetables	Rice	Pulses	Wheat
World	9.00	15.00	2.56	0.79	2.67
India	10.30	14.80	2.00	0.55	2.62
China	8.10	19.30	4.05	1.51	3.91
Indonesia	11.50	8.40	3.03	0.96	—
Bangladesh	8.10	6.20	2.29	0.77	1.99
Pakistan	8.10	12.90	2.04	0.47	2.38
Brazil	15.10	18.80	2.16	0.80	2.37

Note: Data relates to the year 2004-05 for fruits and vegetables and for the year 2002-03 for rice, pulses and wheat.

As may be seen from the above table, the production rate in India is more than the world average in the case of fruits. However, in the case of vegetables, rice, pulses and wheat, productivity per hectare is less than the world average. As regards other countries, India's production rate shows a mixed trend in productivity of various crops.

(c) and (d) The following table shows the C2 cost of production of major crops in major states for the year 2002-03:

Crop	State	C2 Cost of Production* (Rs./Quintal)
1	2	3
Wheat	Haryana	477.81
	Punjab	493.80
	Uttar Pradesh	507.65
Paddy	Andhra Pradesh	543.71
	Haryana	682.86
	Punjab	498.12
	West Bengal	549.06

1	2	3
Gram	Madhya Pradesh	1310.54
	Uttar Pradesh	1199.20
Arhar (Tur)	Maharashtra	1156.94
	Uttar Pradesh	1376.88
Potato	Uttar Pradesh	244.28
	West Bengal	223.15
Onion	Maharashtra	152.23
	Karnataka	363.45

* C2 cost of production is all expenses in cash and kind including rent paid for leased-in-land and imputed value of wages of family labour, rental value of owned land and interest on owned fixed capital.

The world and country-wise comparative costs are not available.

Purchase of fishing vessels

1940. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have plans to fund the direct purchase of fishing vessels through loans and subsidies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have tied up with any bank like NABARD to meet the need for funding for acquisition of fishing trawlers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds released to the Indian firms acquiring deep sea fishing vessels particularly the tuna boasts, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.